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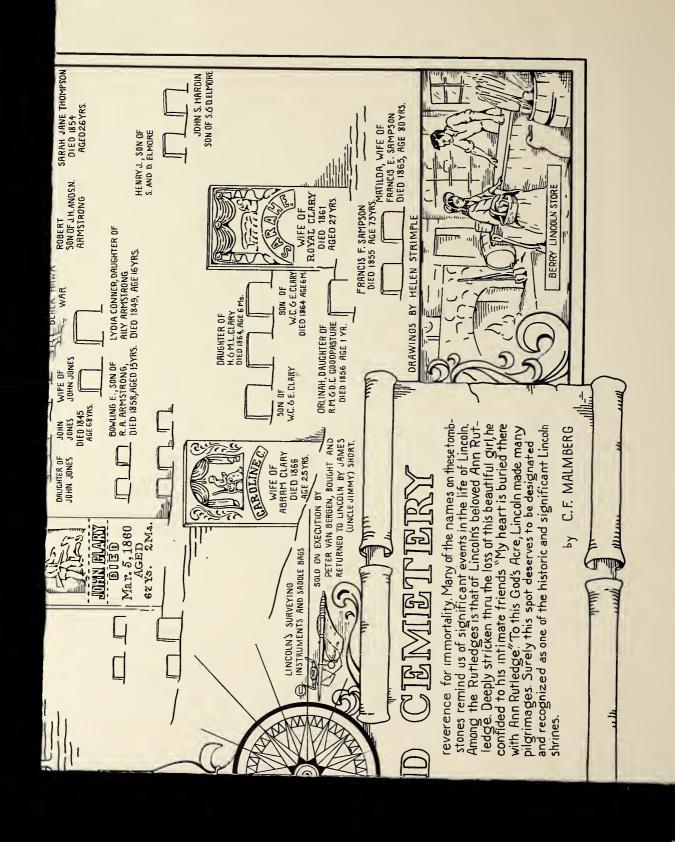


# Illinois Illinois Towns

Petersburg

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



### Card Game Decided Name of Present County Seat of Menard, 100 Years Old

By MRS. ONA KNOLES

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PETERSBURG, Ill—Just about a
century ago two men founded a
village in what was then Sangamon
county but could not decide between
themselves who was to have the
honor of naming the newly founded
site and so they sat down to a game
of cards with the stipulation that
the winner have the privilege of
choosing its name.

It is for this reason that the

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It is for this reason that the county seat of what is now Menard county is cailed "Petersburg" instead of "Georgetown" as it would have heen named had George Warburton been the winner of tha card game instead of Peter Lukins, who, after winning, arose from the empty nail keg on which he was seated and christened the town.

Warburton and Lukins were the folnt owners of 160 acres of land on the present town site. At the time these men conceived the idea of laying out a town a mill stood on the ground, the property of a Mr. Eastep, which had been erected in 1826. Having determined to found a town which they prophesied would some day eclipse all lis rivais in the county (a prophecy which has come true) Warburton and Lukins employed a surveyor and had their entire Dossessions isld off in town lots, hlocks, etc. After this was done they had arguments as to who was to name the town and the famous card game took place with Lukins as the winner.

Became Discouraged

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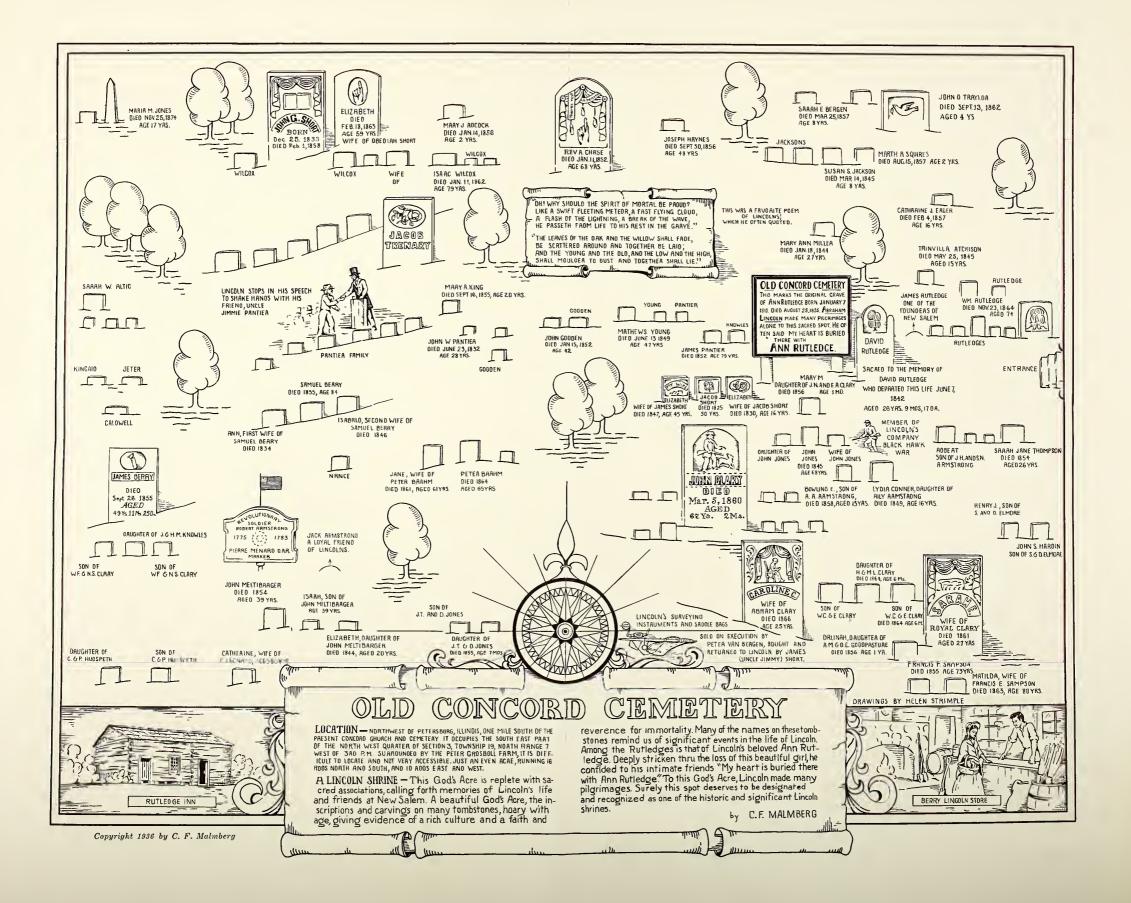
The town grew so slow at first that the founders hecame discouraged and sold out their entire interests in the place to John Taylor and Hezkiah King. Taylor and King employed Abraham Lincoin, at that time a deputy county surveyor of Sangamon county to re-survey the town. This was done and the plat of the town as now laid out, was recorded on Feb. 22, 1836.

But few families were residing in this place up to 1836. The families of Messrs. Davidson and Lukins heing the first to locate here. Other families were Richard Taylor, William Butler, Dr. John Lee, Isom and George Davidson, William P. Cox, W. G. Greene, Thomas Efferson, William J. Hoey, John Ennett, C. G. Brooks, Septimus Levering, A. D. Wright, Jacob H. Laning, R. E. Bennett, James S. Carter, Adney Humphrey, John McNeily, Sam Hill, William Bennett, Nathan Dressier, Charles B. Waldo, George U. Miles, James Taylor, Chester Moon, Martin and Pordan Morris, William Thomas L. Harris, W. C. Dawson, Martin and Pordan Morris, William The first store opened in the community was by John Taylor in 1833. Peter Lukins was the first shoemaker; Jordan Morris, the first blacksmith; James Taylor, the first staddle and harness maker; Carter and Humphrey, the first dealers in

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question was given the affirmative vote. The election was declared voters of the petition was not signed by three-fifths of the legal lilegal, since the petition was not signed by three-fifths of the legal voters of District 28. In three weeks the election was re-held legally with a greater vote in favor of it than had ever been the case. The board of education met in 1902 with the directors of the Harris Academy society, who agreed with the specified plans and consented to donate the funds of the group for building of the new proposed high school, with the condition that the building be called Harris high in honor of Major Thomas I. Harris. It took over thirty years to accumulate the amount of \$5,566.68 turned over.

The new high school was completed Jan. 6, 1965. The building was struck by lightning May 31, 1906, and the upper story was destroyed by water. The building was struck by lightning May 31, 1906, and the upper story was destroyed by water. The building was rebuilt during the summer of 1906. In 1924 a gymnasium was built adjoining the school. At the present time work is going forth rapidly on an addition. Petersburg has ten churches: Methodist Episcopal, Christan, Cumberland Presbyterian, First Baptist, Second Baptist, Episcopal, Lutheran, St. Paul's Evangelical and Catholic. The Methodist church was organized in 1835; the Baptist church in 1854; Presbyterian in 1841; Catholic in 1863.

Petersburg is located in the midst of a great coal field. The first coal mine was opened in 1865 by Elijah Taylor. It was 65 feet below the surface and the vein was eight feet and four luches in thickness. At the present time there are six mines in the immediate community, all working a large force of men.

Petersburg has a canning plant, cowned and operated by E. E. Brass. Also a brick yard, a bottling works, cheese factory, elevator and ice plant. This city has grown by leaps and bounds and at the present time practically every available building is occupied, something that has not been the case for many years.

Pla

# Petersburg Has Many Memories Of Emancipator

When Abraham Lincoln left New Salem to come to Springfield, his contacts with the people of the village did not cease. Many of them moved to Petersburg and others continued to live in Menard county, and when Lincoln, traveling the Eighth judicial circuit, attended court in Petersburg, he often represented former neighbors.

Thus it was in Petersburg that the Lincoln legends centering on New Salem grew up. Lincoln became famous, and his old acquaintances talked about his early years. Later Petersburg people took the lead in emphasizing the importance of New Salem on the development of Lincoln's character.

The Old Salem chautauqua was organized in 1897; twenty years later the Old Salem Lincoln league was formed, in 1917. Earlier William Randelph Hearst had purchased the site of the old village and conveyed it to the chautauqua association.

The Old Salem Lincoln league held a picnic at New Salem on July 4, 1917, and with the help of old settlers who were their guests at this event, they located the sites of the cabins and roads in the vanished village. Later the league began to collect funds to carry on the work of restoration.

In 1918 they gave a pageant portraying scenes in Lincoln's life at New Salem. Meanwhile Thomas P. Reep's "Lincoln at New Salem" was published.

The state took over the site and some additional land in 1918, and plans for the restoration were made. Work was begun in 1932.

Petersburg was surveyed by Lincoln one hundred years ago, along with much of the northern part of Menard county, and this fall the city plans to observe this event in its centennial celebration.

Some of the original New Salem residents are buried near Petersburg—John Hill, Dr. Francis Regnier and Sam\_Hill.

Ill. St Journal 6/30/36

# PLAN TO UNVEIL LINCOLN MARKER AT PETERSBURG

(State Register Special Service) Petersburg, June 23.—The Lincoin Circuit Marking association, organized in this county under the auspices of Pierre Menard Chapter. Daughters of the American Revolution, will unveil the marker in the northeast corner of the court yard at 2 p. m. July 4, in honor of Abraham Lincoln. The marker has been placed as a memorial to the period during which Lincoln rode the circuit in the old eighth judicial circuit.

The Lincoln Circuit Marking asso-The Lincoln Circuit Marking asso-ciation has been formed for about two years, and in counties where there is an active chapter of the D. A. R., the work of seeing that the markers are properly erected has been turned over to them. A num-ber of these markers have been un-veiled in other counties. A tremendious growd is expected

A tremendious crowd is expected to be present at the ceremonies which have been arranged for the unvelling of the Menard county marker, and a fine program, which follows has been arranged. The chief speaker of the day will be Captain Oscar E. Caristroni of Aledo, a Spanish war veter-an, and a national commander of the United States Spanish War Veter-ans. His subject will be "Lincoln, the

Lawyer." The marker, which was placed a few days ago, is located as nearly exactly on the spot where Lincoln stood, when he made his speech for

Fremont, in 1856, as possible.

The program for the afternoon's exercises, which follows, begins at 2 o'clock:

Bugle Call-Harris Osborne, world war veteran, 130th Infantry, 33rd Division.

Invocation-Dr. John Caivin Leon-

Presentation of Judge G. E. Nelson as chairman, by Mrs. George Luthringer, regent Pierre Menard chapter, D. A. R.
Song, "Illinois"—Male chorus.

Address — Hon. Franklin Boggs, president Lincoln Circuit Marking

association. The Lincoln Circuit"-Miss Lottie

E. Jones, chairman executive committee, L. C. M. A.

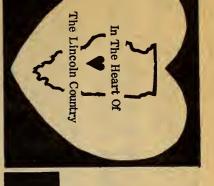
The Illinois Society, Daughters of the American Revolution—Mrs. H. E.

Chubbuck, state regent, D. A. R. f
"Flag Song"—Miss Midred Juhi.
Address, "Lincoln, the Lawyer"—
Captain Oscar E. Caristrom.
Unveiling of Memorial—Mary Vir.

ginia Rainey, Brady Greene Epling |



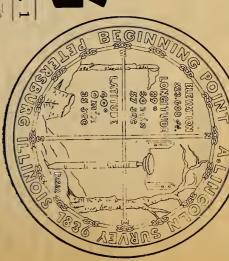
COURTHOUSE AT PETERSBURG, MENARD COUNTY, WHERE LINCOLN WAS NOMINATED FOR CONGRESS,



# PETERS BURG'S

# 

Vol. 1, No. 1



lished by the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce

# STASTORIC FRSBUR

# Wander through Petersburg-discover historic small-town America!

CITY OF PETERSBURG

Dear Petersburg Visitor:

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Petersburg, in the Heart of the Lincoln Country. We hope that while you are with us, you will make every effort to see all of the sights that are of interest to you.

Of the many activities and points of interest which we hope you will enjoy, none is more important to us than your participation; whether you plan to be with us for just a few hours or a lifetime, we are most pleased to have you in the area.

We are extremely proud of the many fine facilities which have been developed here. We hope you will take a drive around

The following are excerpts from an article written by Leigh Levering in which the merits of Petersburg are shown most clearly.

reflect the sterling qualities of and quietness of the days and nights eastern edge of town. The peace amon winds its way along on the trees, the sluggish, muddy Sang-Small, yes, but big in that the ery citizen is everybodys friend. their owners. Owners proud in and carefully tended flower beds white and clean, with lovely lawns are only disturbed by the whistle of by hills draped with beautiful green Golden Rule was the yard stick for small, yet a community where evsmall city. Small, yet friendly; the trains passing through. Homes, living. Set in a valley surrounded "Petersburg, on the Sangamon; a

Its streets are clean, its merchants thrifty and fair, its city officials aggressive and civic minded; its schools modern and well teachered; its youth clean minded, reflecting the teaching of God fearing parents and the close understanding of age with youth.

There are no noon day luncheon clubs; people walk leisurely home at noon for their dinner.

I was happy to have been born in Petersburg; happier still that some of my kin were part of its God fearing people. I was thankful that my love ones, gone, were resting there at home. I thank God for my friends; my old friends of yesteryear and for my new friends in Petersburg on the Sangamon.\*

No one could doubt that Mr. Levering has paid tribute to small



# **PETERSBURG'S** NCOL

Published by the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce

Vol. 1, No. 1

# VISIT HISTORIC PETERSBURG

### CITY OF PETERSBURG

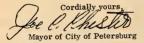
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We are extremely proud of the many fine facilities which have been developed here. We hope you will take a drive around beautiful Lake Petersburg, enjoy our golf course or simply take a walk through our residential area.

Again, Welcome to Petersburg, the next act after New Salem in the life of Abraham Lincoln.



### Petersburg surveyed by Lincoln; became County Seat in 1839

In February of 1836 the town of from John Taylor and other pro-Petersburg was surveyed by Ab-raham Lincoln. The town had outgrown the original plot and so required the laying out of more properties. A great number of the present road and property lines are still maintained according to the Lincoln survey. It was Linthe Lincoln survey. It was Lin-coln's role as surveyor which first gained him notice among the people of the area. He was well known for his skill and honesty as well as his wit and thought-fulness. In at least one instance he ran several lines out of plumb to prevent the house of Jemlma Elmore, widowed during the Black Hawk War, from being in the street. In addition to Petersburg, Lincoln surveyed the towns of New Boston, Bath, Albany and Heron,

A committee appointed by the State Legislature, met in May of 1839, to choose the site of the seat of justice for Menard County. On the 18th day of May 1839, the committee located the seat of justice of Menard County on the public square of the town of Petersburg. They accepted a bond

prietors of Petersburg with sufficient security conditioned for the conveyance of the public square for use by the county. For some unknown reason the law dealing with "conveyance provision" was misinterpreted and the county required that the town proprietors contribute \$3,000,00 as well as the land for the public square. Although a lively contest had taken place among the owners of the

sites of New Market, Miller's Ferry, Huron and Petersburg over which was to be the county seat, Petersburg won out and has re-mained the seat of justice for Menard County since Its organi. zation. When Petersburg became the county seat it had 300 inhabi-tants, but in grew in population and importance, and after the delimitation of Menard County in 1841 it was found to be located near the center of the county.

### PETERSBURG RANKS HIGH AMONG NATION'S SMALL TOWNS

According to published figures Petersburg shows exceptional economic strength. Petersburg ranks first among the random sample of Illinois cities in the 2,000 to 3,000 population range. Retail sales per capita average \$2,260.00 per year. Sales Tax receipts \$85.75 per capita as compared to \$54.85 average for the sample towns. Petersburg shows particular economic strength in the areas of retail general merchandise, lumber building and hard-ware, and automotive related businesses. The total bank assets are listed as \$6,870,00 per capita; this compares to \$2,780 per capita as an average of the eleven sample cities. Obviously a great deal of employment is concentrated in re-tali sales; Petersburg 36.6% as compared to the national average

### Wander through Petersburg-discover historic small-town America!

an article written by Leigh Levering in which the merits of Petersburg are shown most clearly.

"Petersburg, on the Sangamon; a small city. Small, yet friendly; small, yet a community where every citizen is everybodys friend. Small, yes, but big in that the Golden Rule was the yard stick for living. Set in a valley surrounded by hills draped with beautiful green trees, the sluggish, muddy Sangamon winds its way along on the eastern edge of town. The peace and quietness of the days and nights and quetness of the days and nights are only disturbed by the whistle of the trains passing through. Homes, white and clean, with lovely lawns and carefully tended flower beds reflect the sterling qualities of their owners. Owners proud in their possession of a home.

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No one could doubt that Mr. Levering has paid tribute to small town America.

### MENARD COUNTY ESTABLISHED BY STATE LEGISLATURE IN 1839

Menard County was one of the fifteen counties authorized by the State Legislature in the winter of 1839, and was one of the three counties cut off from Sangamon County in that year. The residents of this area desired to have a county seat nearer home, and secured the cooperation of Abraham Lincoln, a representative to the state legislature and chairman of the Committee on Counties. Lincoln presented the proposed bill to create Menard County on January 16, 1839 and It was passed on February 15, of the same year. The boundaries of Menard County were last altered in 1847, and remain unchanged since that time. The setting off of Menard County was the sixth subdivision of this section of the state. Menard

County was named after Colonel Pierre Menard (1767-1844), a French-Canadian, who came to Kaskaskla in 1790, took a promi-nent part in territorial Illinois Politics, acted as the praciding politics, acted as the presiding officer of the legislative council of the Illinois Territorial Legis. lature until 1818, and was elected the first lieutenant governor of Illinois. For the first four years of the counties existence the public business was carried on in privately owned places. The first public buildings were erected in 1844 and served for two decades. The present Courthouse was con-structed in 1896 at an approximate cost of \$46,000.00. The present county jail was erected in 1870 at an approximate \$18,000.00.

### Sangamon River aided in area development

The history of Petersburg is intimately connected with the Sangamon River. This 200 mile long waterway is barely navigable; its deep holes and snags have always been a danger to swimmers and been a danger to swimmers and vessels. Prior to 1819, the Pe-tersburg along the Sangamon was inhabited by Powattomie Indians. It was these Indians who named the river Sangamon meaning "pienty to eat". As in most pio-neer territories, settlements were

dependent upon the rivers as a source of food, transportation and building materials. In the spring of 1831 a flat boat got stuck on the mill dam at New Salem. The tall sad faced man who was in charge was finally able to dislodge the boat, but not himself; Abraham Lincoln was to stay at New Salem for the next six years of his life. It can honestly be said that the Sangamon brought Lincoln to us.

# PETERSBURG NAME DECIDED BY CARD GAME

Two men, George Warburton and Peter Lukins, owned adjoining land which is now Petersburg. In 1833 the two men decided to found a city on this land. They had a survey run and the original lots were lad out on the river flat. Mr. Warburton wanted to name the city Georgetown while Mr. Lukins held out for Petersburg. To decide the issue the two played a card game called "Seven-Jp". Peter Lukins as the winner and consequently both parcels of land were jointly named Petersburg.



Markers located throughout Petersburg direct visitors to the varlous historical sites throughout the city. This pair of markers, located on Route 97 at the north edge of the Courthouse square, points to both the Lincoln Survey Mark and the Edgar Lee Masters Home.



Services

First National Bank

of Petersburg

Member FDIC Phone 632-7716

# Edgar Lee Masters called Petersburg his "heart's home"

Edgar Lee Masters once wrote: "Petersburg is my hearts home. There I knew the first earth's sun and air; still I can see the hills around it, the people that walked its business square."

Throughout the poet's life, much of his writing made Petersburg and the river Sangamon famous. Many of the characters from his "Spoon River Anthology" were Petersburg residents.

These words were spoken by the poet himself on September 5, 1936 for the occasion of the celebration of Petersburg's Centennial of the resurvey of the town by Abraham Lincoln. The closing words of Masters' speech were: "I am one of you. I am prouder that I am sprung from this land than of anything else in my life. I have written books about you, with the idea of making you beloved where you are not known. My thanks en out to you always."

where you are not known. By thanks go out to you always."
By his writings, Edgar Lee Masters did In fact favor this area by drawing from it many characters and scenes in not less than eight of his books. We see continuous reference to ourselves in "Mitch Miller," "Skeeters kirby," "Along the Illinois," "The Sangamon," "Illinois Poems,"

"Across Spoon River," "Jack Kelso" and most Important of all "The Spoon River Anthology." If was in honor of the poet's favor to Petersburg that his home has been preserved. His books have taket the essence of our area into many lands; they have been published in at least hine other languages.

the essence of our area more many reburg lands; they have been published in amous. at least nine other languages. on his If one visits Petersburg he may were still see the sights that Masters saw.

# G.A.R. founder buried here

In Rose Hill Cemetery, less than one-half mile east of Petersburg is the monument and grave of Major B. F. Stephenson, the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic, Dr. Stephenson was a senior brigadier surgeon in the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1866, he conceived the idea of a National Soldiers Mutual Benefit Society whose motto should be "Loyalty, Fraternity, and Charity". The name of this society was The Grand Army of the Republic; better known as the G.A.R.



Interior view of the Edgar Lee Master Memorial, above, shows some of the original manuscripts and documents relating to Masters that are on display. The Masters Memorial, at the corner of Eighth and Jackson, is open daily, Tuesday through Sunday.

# Edgar Lee Masters Memorial is interesting museum

Interested citizens of this community have caused the Masters family home to be purchased and reconstructed as memorial to that great author. It was the desire of the city, and of the people, to establish and retain this home in this small American community in the belief that in years to come it will be increasing significant just as the homes of Longfellow and Whittler have become significant.

Many of the authors possessions, furniture and momentous are on display. The Masters Home is located at the corner of 8th and Jackson Streets, 1 block west of the square. It is open from 150 P.M. until 500 P.M. every day except Monday. A hostess is on duty to offer assistance to the visitor.

WELCOME TO PETERSBURG
IN THE HEART OF
LINCOLN COUNTRY
THE PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL

Joe C. Chester, Mayor

Richard D. Rule, Treasurer
Roy T. Carman, City Clerk

ALDERMEN
Ward 1 — Albert Hinrichs

Ward 2—Richard D. Cheaney Warren Hayden

Ward 3 — Roy Miller Willism Kasten DERRY HARDWARE

Plumbing & Heating Supplies

Appliance Sales & Service

Paint and Farm Supplies

PETERSBURG 632-7921

ILLINOIS

HURLEY FUNERAL HOME

Petersburg

Ph. 632-2500

# STEAMBOATS ON THE RIVER

Like most villages of the 1830's, New Salem and Petersburg were very interested in having their produce transported from that place to the markets of Illinois and the rest of the United States. It could be noted that the Erle Canal was a growing concern in 1825. The Sangamon, however, was not navigated prior to 1832. In the early spring of that year the upper cabin steamer Talisman left Cincinnati bound for Springfield on the Sangamon. It was planned that from Springfield the boat would made all intermediate stops on its way eventually to Louisville, After somewhat slow and tortuous trip down the Sangamon the boat was down the Sangamon the boat was snagged on the dam that was a part of the mill at New Salem, in late March of 1832. A good portion of the 150 tons of cargo aboardhadto be removed so the boat could be dragged free. This trip proved that the Sangamon could be nav-igated; however nothing much came of it since the Talisman burned in Alton in April of the same year. In 1836, 5 years after the journey

of the Talisman, the steamer Utility came up the Sangamon as I as as Petersburg. The water was low and the trip had been so difficult that the captain was afraid to start back or to go forward; he sold the Utility to John Taylor, a clitzen of Petersburg, who used it to build the first house in Petersburg. The first glass windows of the town came from this boat; the first saw mill in town, or in Menard Courty for that matter, was run by the engine from the abandoned Utility, at about the time when the navigability of the Sangamon was to be proven conclusively, the railroads were coming to Illinois. By 1836 the Galena and Chicago Urion Railroad was chartered. In the same year the Illinois Central was chartered, Not long after that the Petersburg and Tonica railroad was organized.

was organized.
It was probably only hopefully
believed that the Sangamon would
ever be a commercial waterway.
However, the attempts that were
made were very colorful and a
visitor to our area today may enjoy a similar ride on the Tallsman
I which has its landing just north
of New Salem on the Sangamon
River.

TALISMAN
RIVERBOAT
EXCURSION
NEW SALEM
STATE PARK

The History of the newspapers in Petersburg and Menard County is very fragmentary. It is known, however, that there were newspapers issued in Menard County as early as the 1850's. The Petersburg Observer was founded in 1874 and has continued as one of the leading weekly newspapers of the nation. S. L. Shaw, ceditor of the Petersburg Observer has served the newspaper and his community since 1919,

**ANTIQUES** 

SOUVENIRS

SUPRISINGLY DIFFERENT

Salem Country Store South Edge of Petersburg on Rt. 97

Kirbys Royal Blue GROCERIES MEATS

> We Feature Monarch Brands

Compliments of

PETERSBURG

COCA COLA

BOTTLING CO.



### LAKE PETERSBURG STARTED IN 1958





ROBBINS

Wearing Apparel For The Family Northwest Corner Square

WELCOME TOURISTS

WILDE MOTOR SALES INC. Sales and Service FORD - MERCURY - MUSTANG COUGAR - FORD TRUCKS

Before You Buy Give Wilde A Try

Petersburg, Ill.

Phone 632\_2559

### OWENS NEW SALEM LODGE

Located at entrance to New Salem State Park Fine Food - Gracious Service **DeLuxe Guest Rooms** Gift Shop - Book Shop - Antique Shop

> Miniture Golf Always Open Stop at the lodge - a fine way to extend your vacation



On The Square Welcome to Petersburg-Lincoln area

Camping supplies Housewares Sporting Goods Auto Parts

Hardware Tires and Batteries Fishing Tackle Tools

the Annual Meeting of the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce in April, 1958, it was suggested that Petersburg needed a lake for recreational and reserve water supply purposes. President William F. Shaw appointed a committee to investigate the possibility of the construction of a lake and report back to the fall meeting of

the Chamber.
From this humble beginning, ake Petersburg was born. After the feasibility of such a project was determined, several sites were investigated and one site chosen. Options to buy were obtained on the land in the area of the chosen site, and Lake Peters-burg Association Inc. was formed and officers elected April 21, 1960.

A large aerial map of the entire A large aerial map of the entire area was made and proposed water front lots were laid out on the map by Cassler and Associates, an engineering firm of Jacksonville, Illinois, From this map, which bung in the city hall in Petersburg, local and area persons showed their interest and confidence in the project by purchasing lots sight and unseen. With this money, the 1,000 acres under option was pur-

chased for just over \$210,000,00. On August 7, 1961, ground was broken for the large earthen dam which was erected at the East end of the project near State route 97 between Petersburg and New Salem State Park. On Sept. 2, 1963, the 200 acre lake was dedi...

Since that time, the lake has filled completely with water and at this writing there are some 200 homes both permanent amount of the control of the control

on Lake Petersburg.

### MINING BEGAN IN 1848

Contemporaneous with the coming of the railroad, the sinking of mine shafts and the beginning of the coal industry took place in the Coal ministry took place in the Petersburg area. Coal mining began as early as 1848 when a draft mine was cut into the hillside just north of Petersburg. In 1865, a modern coal mlne was sunk in the southeast part of Petersburg and by 1883 several mines were located in the town and near vicinity.

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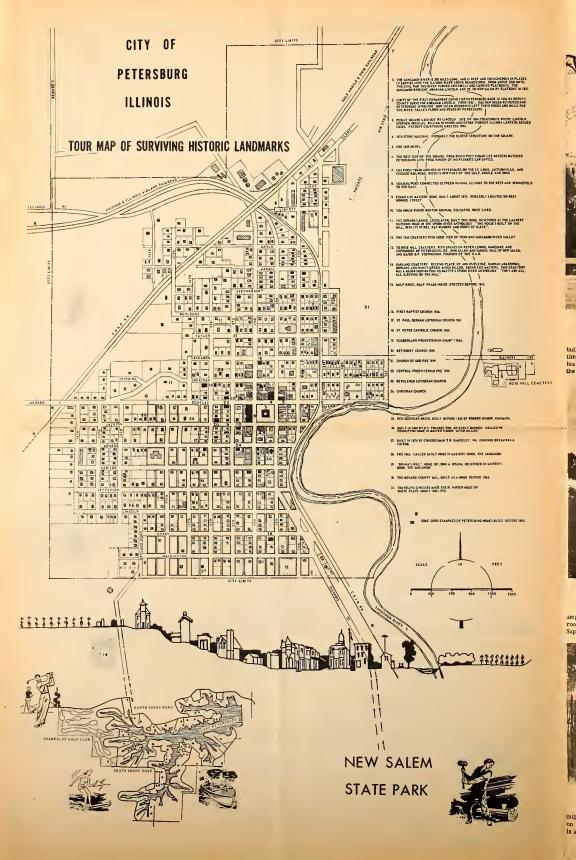
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## SITES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST





### MENTOR GRAHAM HOME

8th and Jackson Streets

This house originally stood on the west side of the square. It was built in 1836, and known as the Judge Harrison Rooming House. At one time the house was occupied by Mentor Graham (Lincoln's teacher) and his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Graham Bell. A walnut stairway leads to the second floor where the original puncheon floor still exists.



SATORIUS HOUSE

West Sherldan Road at 11th Street

This home, built in 1875 by Edward Laning, is a magnificent example of Georgian architecture. From the center hallway open large rooms with ornamental cellings and deep marble mantled fireplaces. Superb walnut woodwork and staircase extend to the third floor.



ANN RUTLEDGE GRAVE

Ann Rutledge's grave is located in Oakland Cemetery, one quarter miss south of Petersburg on Oakland Avenue. The epitaph which appears on the marker was written by the poet Edgar Lee Masters whose grave is also located in Oakland cemetery.



This beautiful bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, the railsplitter, greets visitors to New Salem State Park, located justtwo miles south of Petersburg. The statue depicts Lincoln as a young man when he lived at New Salem.



on Route \$129 stands the monument of Major B, F, Stephenson, founder of The Grand Army of the Republic. Major Stephenson's homeat 714 South 7th Street may also be seen.



ESTEP HOUSE

Corner of 5th and Rutledge Streets

This house was erected by Elijah Estep in 1826. It has the distinction of being the oldest house on the present site of Petersburg. The structure is deceptive in that it was built of sawn lumber rather than logs; this due to the fact that Mr. Estep operated the first sawmill.



MASTERS HOUSE

8th and Jackson Streets

This house was the residence of Edgar Lee Masters between 1870 and 1881. Mr. Masters spent his boyhood in this house and later returned to Petersburg after becoming one of America's outstanding poets. The home was moved from its original location on Monroe Street to the present site in 1960 and is operated as a Memorial by the Petersburg Masters Memorial Association.



WATKINS HOUSE

217 West Sheridan Street

This beautiful red brick Georgian house was built in 1845 by Robert Bishop. Mr. Bishop was the gunsmith of New Salem and Petersburg whose shop, at one time, was a part of this house. The house has been carefully restored by its present owner both inside and out. The large evergreen which stands to the west, was said to have been planted when the house was built.



LINCOLN SURVEY MARKER

7th and Jackson Streets

On February 17, 1836, Abraham Lincoln began his survey of Petersburg starting at this spot. A marker embedded in the sidewalk pinpoints the location at the Southeast corner of 7th and Jackson streets.

### Lincoln's first love was Ann Rutledge

was there that he met the daughter of James Rutledge. Her name was She was just nineteen and engaged to a man named McNeli. McNeil left to go to New York on business promising to return to marry Ann sometime Inthe future. He never returned and Lincoln began courting Ann Rutledge. They planned that Ann would spend a year at the Female Academy at Jacksonville while Lincoinpursued his law studies and saved his money. Unfortunately, before they When she died it was a serious blow to young Lincoln, and biog-raphers bave said that his mel-

While at New Salem, Lincoin ancholy lasted for several months lived at the Rutledge Tavern. It Ann Rutledge is now buried it ancholy lasted for several monus.

Ann Rutledge ls now buried in Oakland Cemetery just south of Petersburg. Her epitaph was written by Edgar Lee Masters:

"Out of me unworthy and unknown The vitrations of deathless music, With malice toward none, with charity for all.

Out of me the forgiveness of mlilions toward millions,
And the beneficent face of a nation

Shining with justice and truth.

1 am Ann Rutledge who sleep be-

neath these weeds,
Beloved in life of Abraham Lincoln, Wedded to him, not through union, But through separation. Bloom forever, O Republic, From the dust of my bosomi"

### PLAN HISTORIC TOUR OF PETERSBURG AREA

A tourist information center to be constructed at the corner of Sixth Street and Lincoln Avenue
is currently being planned by the Petersburg Chamber of Com-merce. It will serve as a center point from which a historic tour of Petersburg may be taken. A large map locating the points of historic interest will cover one wall; small printed maps will be available.

lt is hoped that by making these points of interest as accessible as possible, visitors to our area be encouraged to tour these The Information Center Itself will

be of "New Salem" architecture. The structure was designed by Mrs. Louise Basso, a well known local artist and illustrator. All new directive signs of blue and white have been installed along Petersburg's streets to facilitate the planned tour.

The Abraham Lincoln lived at New Salem from 1831 to 1837, he falled to carry the county in the elections of 1860 and 1864.

In 1859 the Clinton Lodge #19
the Free and Accepted
asons was incorporated in Masons Petersburg by a private act of the Legislature.

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# HONEST ABE DAYS ANNUAL CELEBRATION Old Abo of New Salem was an experimental programment and applications of the Revolutionary war and the War of 1812 are buried in cemeteries in the area. Abraham Lincoln and a company of Menard Courty men participated to the Discolar House and about

honest man, and neighboring Petersburg pays him homage each year with an "Honest Abe Days" weekend celebration complete with clowns, bands, foods, dances, contests, sidewalk sales and good honest funi

Ladies in long dresses and bonnets and men in whiskers and shoestring ties serve from food Kiddle rides, stands both days. drawings, an art show entered by local artists, antique displays, contests and other exhibits furnish something for everyone.

And just to make sure there IS something for everyone the mer-chants have sidewalk sales - real sales with prices slashed almost to what they were in Abe's day -for the bargain hunters.

Anyone driving through Petersburg on Illinois 97 just can't miss the fun. Signs will becken him and Honest Abe himself will be seen ambling across the courthouse lawn just as he did over 100 years ago.

### RELIGIOUS **ACTIVITY** CAME EARLY

Religious organizations were established in the Petersburg area soon as the se arrived, although church buildings schoolhouses erected until after the residents had established themselves.

Several denominations were at work in the very early days of the community, namely: The Regular Baptists, Methodists, Disciples of Christ and the Cumberland Presbyterians, The Methodists had the honor of initiating religious work in the county with a more constructed in 1829. By Several denominations were at group organized ln 1820, By 1822 a regular circuit was formed of alithe Methodist groups. what is now Menard County the Reverend Isaac House was the first Circuit Rider.

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

Community Unit School District #202 has a total enrollment of 1420 students at the present time, and an average daily attendance record during the school year 1966-67 of 1238.02 pupils.

The Educational Program is di-

rected by the Superintendent of Schools and a staff of 84 teachers, who direct the education of pupils from the kindergarten through the 12th Grade levels.
The PORTA District is a recip-

ent of a special \$20,000 grant from the State Department of Education to develop effective means of teaching in a non-graded elementary program.

Elementary schools in the PORTA District are non-graded stressing appropriate placement, independent learning, and team teaching.

### McGARY TRANSFER Petersbug, III.

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### **COMING OF** THE RAILROAD

Railroad promoters realized in the 1850's the necessity of tapping an area having farms value an area naving larins valued at about three and one-half million dollars and producing manu-factured goods totalling about two hundred and forty thousand dollars. Several companies planning to serve the Menard County locality were incorporated before the Clvil War; yet the first railroad entering the county was the Tonica and Petersburg Railroad in 1861, when the road was completed from Jack-sonville to Petersburg, a distance of 28 miles. This line is preof 28 miles. This line is pre-sently the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad. Other railroads con-structed through the county area during the post belium period were the Petersburg and Springfield Railroad (now the Chicago & Illinois Midland), and the Springfield and Northwestern (now the Chicago & Northwestern).

In the Black Hawk War; and about 83 men saw service inthe Mexican

War. Sons of Petersburg and Menard Sons of Petersburg and Memarus County answered the call for troops issued by President Lincoin during the Civil War. 1084 men from the County fought in the Civil War and of this number, 184 laid down their lives for the preservation of the Union.

of the Union.

A bounty of \$500,00 was paid by the county to each volunteer in the Civil War and to each mar who furnished a substitute for

The legislature legalized the acts of the Menard County Court in offering War Bounties and a special war bounty tax was levied.

It has been said of Lincoln that he left no memorial to himself in this area except in the attitude of the people toward him.

The Golf Club at Petersburg is named after the Indian Shambolee. and original, resident of the Pe-tersburg area. His friendship with the white settlers is well recorded.

### CARPENTERS VARIETY STORE

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**Bud and Florence Bale** 

### SHAMBOLEE GOLF COURSE LOCATED AT PETERSBURG

Shambolee Golf Course, a semiprivate 9-hole golf course, was opened June 27, 1965, and is operated by the Menard Golf Association. It is located west of beautiful Lake Petersburg and is about two miles west from Ilinois Route 97.

A golf course for Menard County was the dream of many people for several years. In September of 1963, several interested persons appointed by the Chamber of Com-merce met to discuss the possibility of building a golf course and club house. Officers were elected and plans were under way. There were many rough times but the committee with the encouragement of many others worked for and finally realized completion of their goal. The Chamber of Commerce, Lake Petersburg Association, Jr. Petersburg Association, Jr. Chamber of Commerce, Peters-burg Woman's Club, Town & Country Woman's Club, the City and County officials and several of the service organizations in the County was outstanding and the was supported enthuslasti.

cally. Negotiations commenced with the Farmer's Home Adminis-tration for a loan and an agreement was made and the golf board proceeded to obtain 150 subsubscribers were obtained, the loan was approved by the F.H.A. and a lease for the land was negotiated with the Lake Peters-burg Association. Maddox Conburg Association. Maddox Con-struction Firm of Batavia, Illinois was contacted to construct the

golf course and Wilson Construc-tion Co. of Petersburg was contacted to build the club bouse.

During the summer and early

fall of 1964, the course was con-structed and in the spring of 1965 the Club House completed. In the late summer of 1964, a contest was held for a name of the new club and the name Shambolee Golf Club, submitted by Mrs, Evert Tice, was chosen from several entries. Shambolee was an Indian Chief who lived in this area many,

many years ago. On June 27, 1965 the course was officially opened and golf has been enjoyed by about 190 member... ships in the club plus the green fee players each season.

Some of the members donated funds for trees and evergreens and several varieties were planted in the fail of 1966. Later, two shelters were built on the course with funds and labor donated by the membership.
At present Ken and Sue Costa

anaging the Club House and operating the snack bar. Special dinners are served on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. The Pro-Shop offers a wide selection of golf equipment and Ken, the Club Pro, gives golf lessons to those interacted. those interested.

Patrick McNeely, a graduate of Michigan State University, is serving as greens\_keeper and is assisted by Rudolph Hagney.

The course is open daily and visitors are welcome to come out and enjoy a game of golf on one of the most challenging courses in central Illinois.

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### CHURCH DIRECTORY

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (Mo. Synod) 120 West Monroe

8 a.m. Morning Worship (June, July & August).

9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

(Southern) Sangamon at North Seventh 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 7:30 p.m. Evening Worship Hour

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH South Sixth at Adams Masses: 7:15a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Holy Days of Obligation 6:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Satur-days 4-5 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Day before Holy Day: 7-8 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples) South Eighth at West Jackson

8:15 a.m. Morning Meditations (July). 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship

FOURSQUARE CHURCH 110 East Sangamon 9:45 a.m. Sunday Scbool 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 7:30 p.m. Evening Evangelistic Services.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 221 West Jackson 8:15 a.m. Morning Meditations (June & July).

9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (United) 210 West Douglas

The Central Presbyterian Church unites with the United Church of Christ to jointly conduct all 8:30 services and 10:45 services during July and August.

8:30 a.m. Worship (June, July, Aug. and Sept.) 9:30 a.m. Church School 10:45 a.m. Worshlp

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

North Ninth at West Sheridan 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 6:30 p.m. Junior and Senior Youth Groups

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH South Tenth at Lincoin

Saturday: 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:30 a.m. Sabbath School

> ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

North Eighth at Douglas St, Paul United Church of Christ unites with the Central Presbyter-lan Church to jointly conduct all 8:30 services and 10:45 services during July and August.

8:30 a.m. Worship (June, July,

Aug., and Sept.) 9:30 a.m. Church School 10:45 a.m. Worship

KELSO HOLLOW New Salem State Park 8:15 a.m. Morning Worship (non-denominational) Sunday mornings of June, July and August.

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Interior view of the Edgar Lee Masters Memorial building. A plc-ture of the famed poet appears in the upper photograph.



Burial place of Edgar Lee Masters is shown in the center, in Oak. land Cemetery, a short distance north of the Ann Rutledge grave

# **BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY**

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